

## REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **22 September 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1, 4, 7-12, 15, 18-23, 26 and 29-33. Claims 1, 12 and 23 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1, 4, 7-12, 15, 18-23, 26, and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dickinson et al (USPN 6,853,988, hereinafter “Dickinson”).

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 12, and 23 were rejected as being unpatentable over Dickinson. Examiner avers that Dickenson teaches an application identifier (see Office Action, page 4, paragraph 2). Specifically, the Examiner states that the “certificate type” (see Dickinson column 21, lines 25-40) is the same as an application identifier. Applicant respectfully points out that the certificate type taught by Dickinson can include: (1) “one or more **algorithm standards**, for example, RSA, ELGAMAL, or the like;” (2) “one or more **key types**, such as symmetric keys, public keys, strong encryption keys such as 256 bit keys, less secure keys, or the like;” or (3) “**compatibility with** one or more third-party cryptographic applications or interfaces, one or more communication protocols, or one or more certificate standards or protocols” (see Dickinson column 21, lines 25-40).

In contrast, the application identifier taught by the present invention identifies the application that is being used by a user (see page 7, lines 7-8; and page 9, lines 18-21 of the instant application), and is used to determine whether the user can **sign an item (e.g., a form) associated with the application using a given private key** (see page 9, lines 3-8; page 9, line 26 to page 10, line 14 of the instant application). The certificate type taught by Dickinson is not the same as an application identifier taught by the present invention. The certificate type of Dickinson **cannot** be used to determine whether the user can sign an item

associated with the application using a given private key. Specifically, the *algorithm standards, key types, and compatibility with cryptographic applications* **do not** provide any information about the application being used by the user and whether the user can sign an item associated with the application using a given private key.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 12, and 23 as presented are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 4 and 7-11, which depend upon claim 1, claims 15 and 18-22, which depend upon claim 12, and claims 26 and 29-33, which depend upon claim 23, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

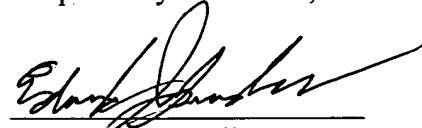
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**CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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